

A World of Experience  
**An Honors Thesis (HONRS 499)**

**by**

Jessie LaFree

**Thesis Advisor**  
Leslie Smith

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Leslie Smith', with a large loop at the beginning and a trailing flourish.

**Ball State University**  
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**Abstract**

In 2009, "over 260,000 students" in the United States chose to study abroad and, if trends continue, that number will keep growing (NAFSA). Students love studying abroad because it is a fun experience, but also because it is a rewarding experience. Educational institutions are always telling students that studying abroad will benefit their learning experiences, but how?

A year ago I traveled around the world with 40 other Ball State Architecture and Landscape Architecture students on the CAP World Tour. On this 100-day trip I experienced countless new things. It was truly a once-in-a-lifetime experience and something I continue to learn from on a daily basis. The "Global Experience Project" is my attempt to examine some of the things that I took away from this study abroad experiences and look at how these lessons have changed who I am and where I am going.

## Acknowledgements

I would like to thank Leslie Smith for advising through this project and pushing it in the direction that it has gone. I would also like to thank him for “putting up” with me on those 100-days of World Tour in 2010. World Tour probably wouldn’t have happened without him!

I would like to thank my parents and grandparents for their love and support (and funding) and for allowing me to go out into the great big world without making a fuss about it.

I would also like to thank Ted Wolner, Rod Underwood and all of the other people at CAP who made World Tour possible for me and continue to do so for future CAP students.

Lastly I would like to give a big thank you to the following people for providing me with some of the material and inspiration for this project:

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### **Author’s Statement: The “Global Experience Project”**

The “Global Experience Project” is a creative project based off of the experience of studying abroad in 2010 on the CAP World Tour. The project aims to explore how studying abroad and travel in general changes us and what valuable lessons we take away from such experiences.

The project takes the form of this binder as well as a website:

**[aglobalexperience.com](http://aglobalexperience.com)**

I created a website in order to a) gain more web-based experience and b) provide a student testimony and resource for students thinking about studying abroad or traveling out of the country.

The website will be promoted through posters displayed on the Ball State campus and personal connections on the World Wide Web.

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In retrospect, working on the “Global Experience Project” has made me realize a lot of the things I learned on World Tour. The lessons have made me a better student as well as a better person. I talk about this discovery more in the “Global Experience Project Summary” on Page 29.

I hope that everyone who reads this binder and/or visits [aglobalexperience.com](http://aglobalexperience.com) comes away with a new sense of appreciation for studying and traveling abroad. I undertook this project for everyone out there wanting to travel the world: students, teachers and even retirees.

I hope the “Global Experience Project” instills in everyone a desire to travel. It’s a big wide world, get out there!



# **THE GLOBAL EXPERIENCE PROJECT**

This content was intended to be viewed in web format on the project's website:

AGLOBALEXPERIENCE.COM

For this project binder the separate pages of the website have been formatted in a different version.

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The following pages contain these portions of the website.

### **The "Global Experience Project" – HOME**

This page contains the content displayed on the first page of the website.

### **The "Lessons"**

The "lessons" are the main content of the website. The 20 individual pages cover the 20 different "lessons" learned while studying abroad.

### **The "Global Experience Project" – in SUMMARY**

The summary is the conclusion of the project. This page is unique and separate on the website as well as in this collection.



[TRAVEL!]

A year ago, I undertook one of the most rewarding educational experiences of my life: a semester abroad.

With 40 other Ball State students, I traveled the world (26 countries to be exact) in 100 days. On this World Tour my fellow travelers and I experienced new places, new cultures, new customs and new foods among many other things.

As the 40 of us traveled, lived and learned together it is needless to say that every one of us changed. This project, entitled "a global experience" is my attempt to look back, a year later, at what I took away from this trip and how it changed me as person as well as to share some advice for you future/present/past travelers out there.

# CONTINUE READING...



[A FELLOW TRAVELER IN BEIJING, CHINA.]

Everyone wants to travel. Some of us get to and some of us might not. This is the case all around the world.

On World Tour we met lots of fellow travelers. We would strike up conversation about where we had been, where they had been and where we were going. All of these conversations were memorable but none so much as our experience in Venice. As a group we were walking across one of the many bridges. Below, a gondola was being pushed through the canal and, on board, a Chinese girl about my age. As soon as she saw us she jumped up and shouted "Ni Hao!". She kept saying it over and over. We said hello back to her and she beamed. It was an awesome feeling, seeing someone from the other side of the world visiting Venice, just like us. Though we shared little more than a word this exchange left many of us in a good mood for the rest of the day.

People travel everywhere, from everywhere. While traveling you tend to run into a lot more of these people. You'll strike up conversations with them, wait in train stations with them and visit landmarks with them. As you meet more of them the world becomes a smaller place. You establish connections that cross borders and languages. You begin to realize that your desire to see the world is something you have in common with the rest of the world.

Travel is:

# UNIVERSAL.



[AT THE PLAZA MAYOR AFTER FINALLY ARRIVING IN MADRID.]

When you're traveling you're going to run into snags. It's inevitable. Somewhere along the line your flight might be delayed, you might miss your train or maybe even both.

The first day of World Tour was one of the longest "days" of my life. First, we arrived at the airport terminal in Chicago only to find that our plane actually left several hours later than we thought. When we finally got through that flight and arrived in Dublin we were greeted by a snowstorm, a snowstorm that eventually led to the cancellation of our second flight. (This was the first snowstorm Dublin had had in 50 years.) Hours and hours later we finally made it to a hotel where we all crashed into bed before heading back to the airport the next morning to try again.

These things are bound to happen when you're traveling. In fact, consider yourself incredibly lucky if everything in your trip actually goes according to plan. When difficulties arise abroad you have to realize that some things are out of your control. Be prepared to sit in airports, train stations and bus stations. Be prepared to change your day plans or stay in a different hotel. If you miss out on something you really want to do, that's a reason to come back. The more you go with the flow, the happier you'll be.

Traveling takes:

# FLEXIBILT.Y.



[AT THE GRAND MOSQUE IN ABU DHABI WEARING OUR ROBES AND HEADSCARVES.]

Americans have lots of opinions about the rest of the world, even if we haven't been there. If you're an adventurous traveler you will probably travel to places with cultures or customs that you may disagree with. Hopefully you come out of these situations positively.

In Abu Dhabi we went to visit the Grand Mosque. When the bus pulled up our tour guide asked us to stay seated as he explained that all women were required to wear a robe and headscarf inside the mosque. At first, a lot of us were a little angry; we weren't accustomed to being told what to wear, especially not a headscarf. But we all wanted to go in the mosque so we all ended up wearing the robes and headscarves. Once we had them on, I think most of us realized that it wasn't really that big of a deal to be wearing them at all. Wearing those robes had nothing to do with what we were told to do but it had everything to do with respect. We wore the robes in respect; respect for their culture and respect for their customs.

As I said, adventurous travels are more likely to come across these situations but they can happen anywhere. When they occur, remember that you are a visitor in a foreign place and the best thing you can do is be respectful. If you give things a chance, you might change the way you think about them.

Travel takes:

# RESPECT.





[TURKISH DELIGHT AT THE MARKET IN ISTANBUL.]

If you like traveling or the idea of traveling, you probably like watching some of the culinary travel shows on the Food Network or Travel Channel. The hosts on these shows inspire jealousy. Who doesn't want to eat food for their job?

Unless you get some sort of network deal you're probably not going to get paid to eat food abroad. The good news is you still get to eat it! If you're more on the adventurous side you can try all different kinds of things: stewed animal organs, haggis, and chicken feet. If you like things a little less exotic go for the gelato or kebabs. Either way there are plenty of good things to eat.

On World Tour I wasn't quite as adventurous with food as I wish I had been but I still managed to try a few new things: pigeon, beef's tongue, and a few unidentified foods in Asia. For me, food was more about enjoyment than experiment. One of my favorite treats was a cone full of gelato. My roommate also enjoyed gelato as well, perhaps too much. I think her record level of consumption was seven scoops one day in Florence. Adventurous or not, we definitely enjoyed the eating.

Traveling takes:

# TASTE.



[INSIDE THE GREAT MOSQUE OF CORDOBA.]

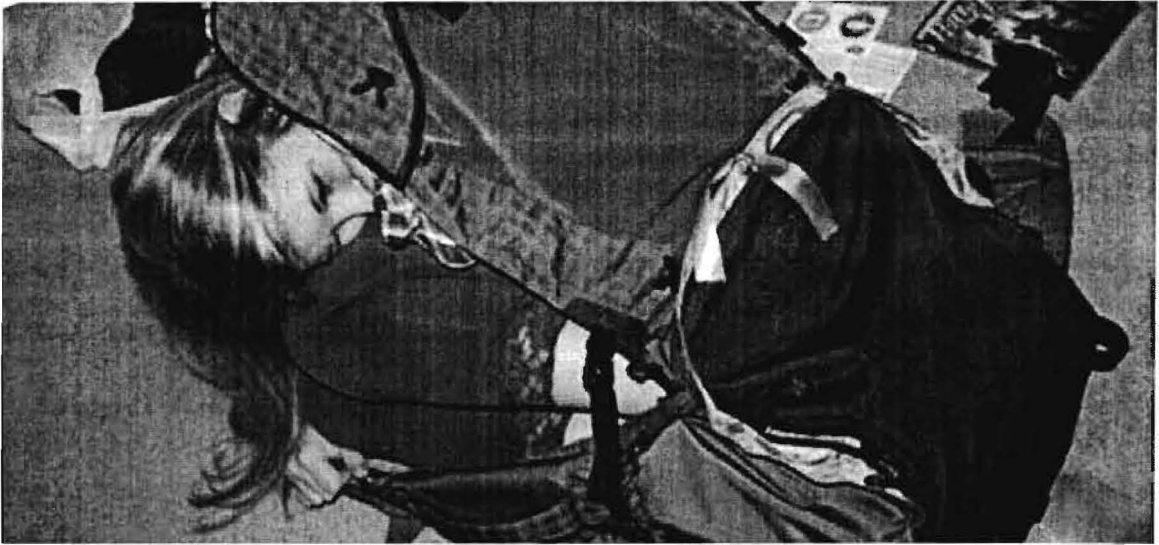
Imagine your relief when you finally arrive at your destination. You finally get to see something that you've been looking forward to for as long as you've been planning your trip. Does it exceed your expectations or does it fall short?

When World Tour finally arrived in Cordoba, Spain we went to our first architectural monument of the trip: the Great Mosque of Cordoba. The weather was perfect; the sun was out. Things couldn't have been much nicer. The Mosque was, needless to say, awe-inspiring: rows upon rows of arches with their red and white voussoirs. It was one of the largest spaces any of us had seen. After wandering through the Mosque we sat outside in the courtyard amongst the orange trees and sketched. It felt like World Tour had truly begun.

These kinds of moments are the moments that make traveling truly worth it. They are the moments that will stick with you for the rest of your life. Seeing new things, experiencing new things... need I say anymore?

Traveling is:

AWESOME.



[MY BEST FRIEND ALEX ATTEMPTING TO FIT IN MY WORLD TOUR BACKPACK.]

Try packing a whole semester worth of clothes, shoes, toiletries, medicine and school supplies into a hiking backpack and a duffel bag. Don't forget that you have to carry all of this luggage on your own back. You really need to think about what you're packing.

It's sort of strange the things that you really want to cram into your bag when you're packing. You start thinking of all the things you're leaving behind. You think about your family, your friends and your pets. You think about how much you're going to miss hanging out with your friends and family. How much you might miss out on while you're away abroad. It's heart wrenching.

When I left for World Tour I was excited but I also felt like I was having a bit of a nervous breakdown. Leaving things is slightly terrifying, especially for over 3 months. Stepping onto that plane in Chicago was quite a big step but I managed to do it knowing that the experience I was about to have would be the biggest adventure of my life.

Traveling takes:

# COURAGE.



[LAYING IN THE PIAZZA DEL CAMPO]

A lot of people travel to escape, to get away from their hectic lives and all of their stresses. Most people envision this taking place on a beach or in a spa but in truth, these little moment of escape can happen anywhere.

One of my favorite memories of World Tour took place in the Piazza del Campo in Siena, Italy. Normally a busy place full of tourists (and also the infamous Siena horse race), the Piazza was incredibly calm on the afternoon we visited it. The weather was perfect and the sun was out so we decided to do nothing more than lay on the Piazza with our heads on our backpacks. The bricks were warm and the sun felt glorious. It was incredibly easy to simply lay there and forget about everything else.

On a long trip like World Tour you won't necessarily escape stress and you definitely won't avoid hectic situations in the long run, but somewhere along the way you will still experience those perfect little moments where everything seems to melt away and you couldn't be any happier than where you are right then and there.

Traveling is:

BLISS.



[ON AN ADVENTURE IN SINGAPORE.]

There's a saying that "curiosity killed the cat". Good thing you're not a cat.

We arrived in Singapore around 5 AM: tired, hot and understandably a bit cranky. We all knew it was going to be a rough day, especially since we had less than 24 hours to explore as much of Singapore as we could. After a long day of tours and exploration we had to choose between sleep and further exploration. My roommate and I decided on the latter so we headed to the Chinese market right down the street. We bought candy and gifts at the market and enjoyed the celebration of the Chinese New Year out on the streets. There were fireworks and odd foods and all kinds of strange and interesting things. It was great.

Had we chosen to go to sleep we would've missed out on these experiences but our curiosity wouldn't let us. If you're traveling abroad, you're obviously at least a little curious about foreign cultures and customs to begin with. Let that curiosity drive you, and you'll be all the better for it.

Traveling takes:

# CURIOSITY.



[ENJOYING THE WIENINGER FAMILY HEFE WEISSBIER IN SALZBURG.]

As Americans, we all have very diverse heritages and family histories. Many of us know nothing about where our families originally came from or what they did before immigrating to America. Sometimes when we travel we are given the opportunity to discover this and learn a little bit more about ourselves.

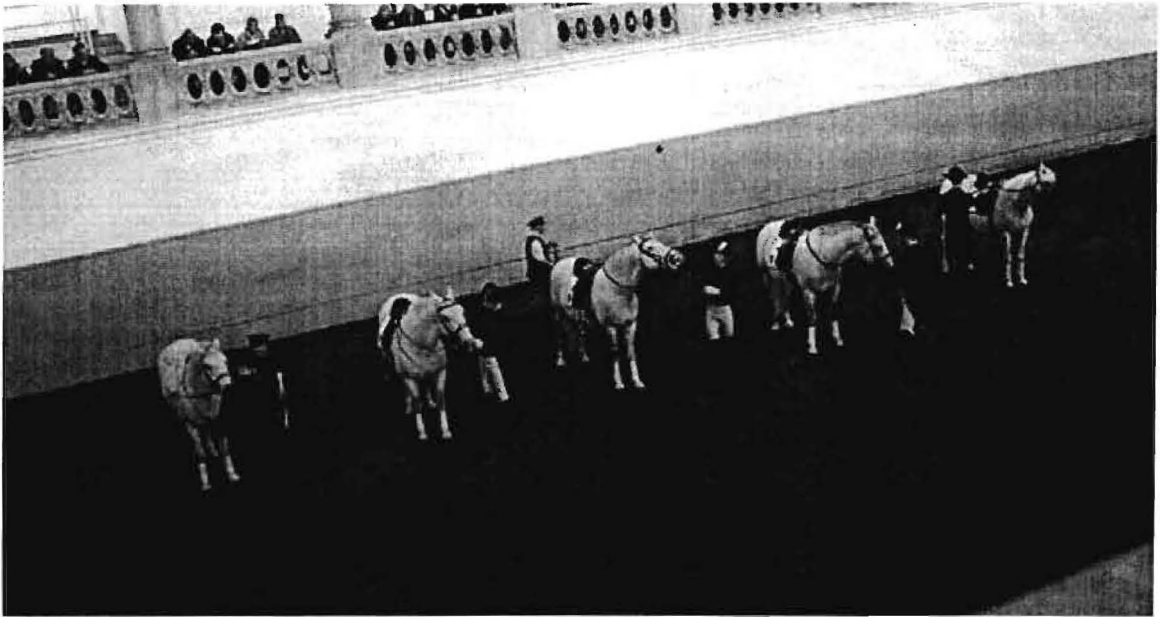
On World Tour, one of my friends couldn't wait to get to Salzburg. Before coming on the trip his grandpa had told him about a brewery there that was started by his grandpa's own grandparents. Of course, this brewery wasn't in the city itself so we spent most of our time in Salzburg just looking for a restaurant that carried that beer. We almost gave up but persevered and ending up finding a nice little restaurant with every kind of beer the brewery offered. We spent the rest of our time there enjoying the sun, the beer and stories of our family heritages. In the end, my friend bought about everything he could find with the brewery label on it and took it home for his grandpa.

If you know anything about your heritage abroad I recommend looking into it when traveling. Having a link to someplace you are traveling will make your trip more interesting and more meaningful wherever you go.

Traveling is about:

# HERITAGE.





[THE LIPIZZANERS AT THE SPANISH RIDING ACADEMY IN VIENNA, AUSTRIA.]

We usually pick destinations based around the things we enjoy. People who love beaches travel somewhere warm and sunny while a person who likes artwork might choose to travel to a big city. If you could go anywhere where would you want to go? What would you choose to see?

While most of the World Tour travel planning was done by others, what we did in each city was entirely up to us. This meant planning ahead and making sure that we got to do what we wanted to do. Before the trip even started one of my main goals was to see the Lipizzaner horses in Vienna. In fact, as a horse-lover and an equestrian it wasn't really an option not to go. Upon arrival in Vienna I figured out the times that the Spanish Riding School (where the horses are kept) was open and when the performances would be held and made a point of getting up early to go. Even though I went alone and waited in line for an hour and a half for tickets, every moment of the show was worth it. If I hadn't gone, I definitely would have regretted it later.

Traveling will always be made more enjoyable if you do the things that you really want to do. Do things that interest you. Before you travel research where you are going and see what things you can do in certain place. Everyone has interests. If you don't have any, why are you traveling?

Traveling takes:

# INTERESTS.



[THE BLUE MOSQUE IN ISTANBUL, THE TOWERS (MINARETS) BROADCAST THE ADHAN DAILY.]

When you're traveling you are guaranteed to experience new things. Guaranteed. These new things might include new cuisines, new customs and/or new faiths.

On World Tour, Istanbul was the first city where we became fully submersed in the Muslim faith. There, the Muslim call to prayer or "Adhan" sounds throughout the city five times a day. This call is entirely un-ignorable and you can hear it everywhere and anywhere in the entire city. Every time it rang across the rooftops was an epic reminder of where we were and what the culture was there.

Some experience abroad will be stranger than others but each experience will certainly change you and change the way you see things in the world. Once you experience these things you will never be the same or think the same as you did before.

Travel creates:

# AWARENESS.





[THE CURVES OF PARC GUELL.]

In the U.S. we rely on cars a lot more than we realize. We drive everywhere, even if its only two blocks away. Abroad you won't often have this luxury, especially in Europe where many city centers are pedestrian only.

When World Tour was in Barcelona our professors wanted to make sure we all saw the famous Parc Guell. Everyone met in the lobby of our hotel mid-afternoon and we set off for Parc Guell. Barcelona, it turns out, is huge. Our "walk" to Parc Guell turned out to be more of a hike, an 8-mile uphill hike to be exact. By the time we got there we were all complaining, sweating and about to give up on seeing Parc Guell altogether.

In the end, Parc Guell was totally worth the 8-mile hike. It was also a precursor of things to come and certainly not the longest walk we had in us. Traveling abroad certainly takes a reasonable amount of fitness. To see everything that you want to see in the short time you have, you're probably going to end up walking quite a bit. You're also going to be slinging luggage around and pushing the limit when it comes to sleep and nutrition. I'm not saying that you have to be a marathon-runner but I am saying that you should prepare your body for the circumstances to your best ability.

Traveling takes:

# ENDURANCE.



[A FELLOW WORLD TOUR TRAVELER GOOFING AROUND AT ONE OF THE MANY GIFT SHOPS WE VISITED.]

Traveling isn't always about moving; sometimes it's about sitting still. Have you ever sat on a plane for 12+ hours? Waited for a train for 3 hours in the rain? Sometimes that's what it takes to get where you want to go.

Once things get rolling on your trip you really just want to see more and more. Real traveling though, unlike your favorite Travel Channel Show, includes a lot of down time. Lots of time spent playing cards and kicking around a hacky-sack. This is the behind-the-scenes stuff of travel.

On World Tour we spent a lot of time waiting for things to happen; waiting for planes to board and waiting in line for food. Sometimes we'd add up how much time we were actually visiting stuff and compare it to how much time it took to get to that place. Thankfully, it's hard to get too bored when you've got homework and friends and hacky sacks to occupy you.

Traveling takes:

PATIENCE.



[DOING THINGS LIKE RIDING CAMELS IN THE DESERT CAN GET YOUR CLOTHING VERY, VERY DIRTY.]

Most of us take clean laundry for granted. If you're really lucky your mom still does it for you, or maybe your spouse. While touring, this is not the case. Laundry becomes another thing that you have to make time for and having clean clothes becomes a luxury.

On World Tour we did laundry when we could and where we could. The sink became more than just a place to brush your teeth and it overflowed from dirty laundry water and wet socks. Every night we'd have shirts, pants and underwear hanging from the shower curtain and socks drying on the heater. Once in a while our hotel would have a laundry machine; those were the good days.

When you're traveling you're not going to have everything that you need all the time. You're going to have to go without the washer and dryer for a while. When you do come across the opportunity to use one, you'll jump at it. In the meantime you'll have to make do. That means washing clothes in the sink, hanging underwear out the window and occasionally wearing dirty clothes.

Traveling takes:

# RESOURCEFULNESS.



[THE REMAINS OF THE CONCENTRATION CAMP AT AUSCHWITZ-BIRKENAU.]

All of the places people travel to have long, long histories. Sometimes these histories can be very dark, but still we go.

On World Tour, we came across numerous memorials and monuments in our travels. While they all gave us something to think about, none was more sobering than our visit to Auschwitz. Though the day we visited was bright and sunny, many of us left deep in thought and with somber faces. It was definitely a quite bus ride back to Budapest.

As I said, every place we visit has a history, and some, like Auschwitz, have such emotional effects on people that they are reduced to tears. But it is still important to visit these places. By visiting you are not only learning, but paying respect to the people that died there. Visiting places like Auschwitz is more than important because it will change the way you think and, in some cases, the way you view the rest of humanity.

Traveling is about:

# REMEMBRANCE.



[LITTLE DID I KNOW I WAS ABOUT TO BECOME HIS DANCE PARTNER.]

A lot of us really don't like to be laughed at but we obviously can't help it when situations arise in which we are the butt of the joke.

In Granada we decided to go to a Flamenco show as a group. This is certainly one of the more "touristy" things to do in Spain but everyone wanted to do it anyway. In Granada, the Flamenco shows take place in the traditional gypsy cave dwellings. The audience sits in a single row of chairs along a hallway in which the Flamenco dancers strut their stuff. Our cave, which we shared with a Russian tour group, was more than a bit cramped. The show, however, was incredible: a live band with traditionally garbed dancers and an intermission complete with homemade Sangria.

We thought the show was over after the last dancers left the stage, but it turns out it was not. The dancers decided to have a little fun with us. They pulled us up onto the dance floor and asked us for our best Flamenco. Mine was a sorry attempt at best; I mostly just stood there while my gypsy dance partner drew me closer with his scarf. My helplessness was the source of much laughter from Americans, Russians and Spaniards alike.

Turns out, laughter is universal and some things are just plain funny. There isn't anything that brings people together across cultural and lingual boundaries quicker than laughter.

Traveling takes a sense of:

# HUMOR.



[BUDDHIST/HINDU TEMPLE AT THE SIEM REAP COMPLEX.]

If you're traveling, it's obvious that you have at least a bit of a sense of adventure. Otherwise, you'd be sitting at home.

I love adventure and on World Tour, I never felt more adventurous than when I was in Cambodia. I loved walking around the temples and the markets. Every moment felt like something out of an Indiana Jones movie or a National Geographic article. I don't know if it was the jungle setting or the mosquito nets in our hotel rooms but something about Cambodia just seemed adventurous.

Wherever you go, traveling is going to excite you. Somewhere along the line you're going to find adventure. When you do find it, you better be ready.

Travel takes a sense of:

# ADVENTURE.





[JUST A PORTION OF OUR AMAZING WORLD TOUR TEAM!]

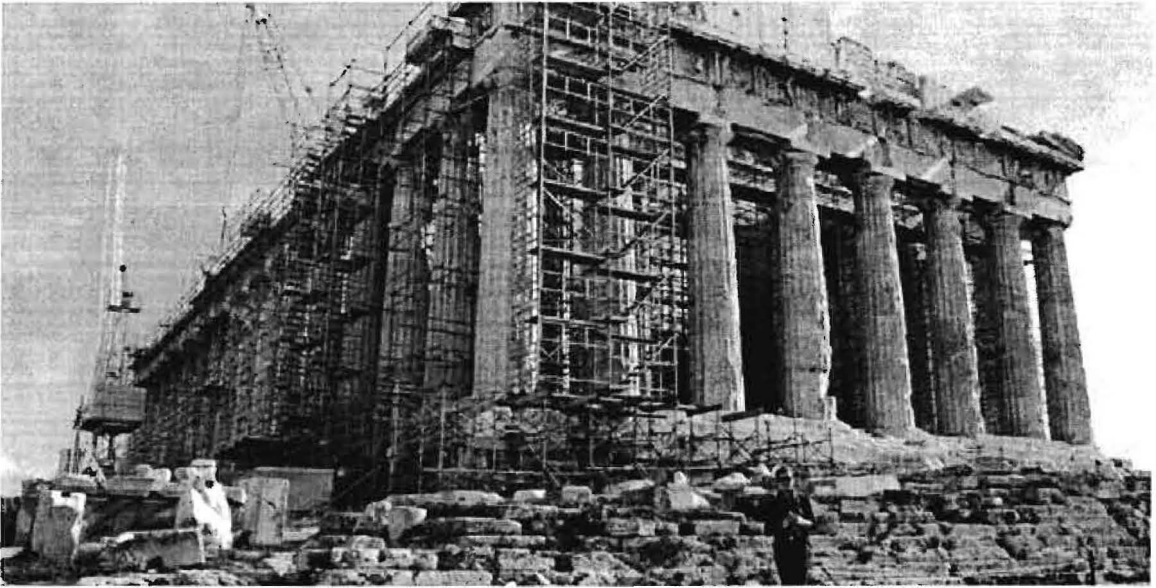
Sometimes people like to travel alone, like to do whatever they please and make decisions as they go. Most travel, though, is usually done in groups and when traveling in groups, it always works better if you work together.

By the end of World Tour we were a professional traveling group. We could load the bus in a matter of minutes, bags and all. We could all eat breakfast in less than 15 minutes and we could determine who was missing from our group at any given point in a matter of seconds (we did a count off).

Being able to function as a group made the tour that much more enjoyable. Once we had a system of doing things we definitely had more time to enjoy where we were. In truth, we practiced some of these things before we left just for good measure: packing our bags, getting together in a group quickly and counting off, and splitting into smaller groups. Getting a group to work together well definitely takes preparation and focus but in the end it really makes a difference.

Traveling takes:

# TEAMWORK.



[THE PARTHENON WAS PROBABLY ONE OF THE MOST MONUMENTAL THINGS ON WORLD TOUR.]

Lots of people make scrapbooks or albums to remember their trips. I kept a journal. Regardless of which way you decide to commemorate your trip (even if it's only in memory) you will surely always remember it for years and years to come.

For me, World Tour will always be something to talk about. I will never forget all of the experiences I had in those 100+ days nor the people I traveled with. Though I hope many more exciting things happen to me in my life I know that World Tour will always rank high in the list of crazy and daring things that I decided to do.

Traveling is some different and something exciting for all of us. It is fun, it is educational and hopefully, it will be something that you always want to remember. I sincerely hope that the experiences you have while traveling and the trips you take in the next year or the next 20 years will remain as memorable a part of your life as World Tour has remained in mine.

Traveling is:

# MONUMENTAL.





[JAMES, JON AND I IN IRELAND ON THE LAST DAY OF TOUR.]

Many people who haven't traveled imagine the road as a lonely place, but really, it's only lonely if you want it to be.

We started off World Tour as 40 students who sort of knew each other. Some of us had known each other for years while others met in line at our first airport. We all had some common interests (traveling and Architecture) but we all came from different places and held different views of the world.

Who knew that by the end of tour we 40 would become such a close-knit group? Who knew that the last days of tour would be some of the saddest because we were realizing that we wouldn't be surrounded by this new "family" of ours every waking hour of every single day. No more breakfast as a group or bus games or hacky sack in the train station. The last days of World Tour made everyone realize how much we loved and cared for one another and how much traveling had brought us together despite our differences.

Traveling takes:

# LOVE.

# IN SUMMARY

I've given you 20 lessons. 20 lessons even though there are many, many more that I learned on World Tour:

Since World Tour, I've embraced my sense of ADVENTURE. Just because I'm "not a kid" anymore doesn't mean that I can't have adventures. In fact, I plan to have many more, starting with my move to Chicago in less than a month now.

I've learned to be more AWARE. After World Tour I definitely have a more global perspective on things. When I watch the news I try to think about things from the perspectives of all the cultures I have visited in the world and I am certainly more AWARE of all of the issues taking place in the world as a whole.

Since World Tour I have come to realize how AWESOME some things are. Take higher education for instance; if I had never come to Ball State, I never could've gone on World Tour. And even before I went on tour I realized how lucky I was to get to participate in such an AWESOME program.

After World Tour I have come to find BLISS in many simple things. Once you go without things you take for granted, like being able to watch a movie on the couch or getting to cook your own food, you realize that these are things you should be happy to do, and you should find happiness in doing them.

World Tour certainly gave me a sense of COURAGE. COURAGE to go out into the world and do what I want to do. I have realized what having COURAGE to take risks can reward you with and in my future; I want to take more of these risks.

Going on World Tour only increased my sense of CURIOSITY. Even though I've seen hundreds of cities around the world, I still want to see more. I want to travel to Bali and to South America and even to the Middle East. I also want to

World Tour has certainly made me more FLEXIBLE. Instead of getting bent out of shape because some thing isn't going as planned, I just go with the flow. I have come to realize that there are somethings I can't control (like getting into grad schools) and this realization has lowered my stress levels fantastically. Being more FLEXIBLE is definitely more productive than being more stressed.

World Tour has brought to light my own HERITAGE and my desire to travel back to Belgium where my family is originally from.

Truthfully, World Tour probably didn't give me more a sense of HUMOR, but it did give me plenty of stories to tell and plenty to laugh about. I usually don't tell the flamenco story dancer though (too embarrassing).

World Tour has fueled my INTERESTS. My trip exposed me to some of the greatest Architecture in the world and seeing these works only makes me more determined to become an Architect in the future.

World Tour has given me an entire new group of people to LOVE. Some of the people on the trip remain very close to me and know more about me than many people. I LOVE them for this and I miss being with them on tour all the time.

World Tour has become a MONUMENTAL period of my life. It is something that I will never forget and something that will always be on my resume.

World Tour has made me a more PATIENT person. A 16+ hour bus ride tends to do that to people.

World Tour has made me REMEMBER. Not only do I have more of a connection to world histories but I also have a personal experience related to places around the world. I try to remember these things every day.

World Tour has made me more RESOURCEFUL. I don't have to do my laundry in the sink anymore but I do try to use things that I have at hand. I certainly don't complain about doing laundry anymore either.

World Tour has given me a better sense of RESPECT for foreign cultures. In this day and age I feel that this may be one of the most important things I gained

from tour. I hope that the things I have learned come in handy in the future both professionally and personally.

World Tour has made me a more daring person when it comes to TASTE. It is certainly one of my regrets that I didn't try more exotic foods on tour. In the future I will never pass these chances up.

After World Tour I have become a much better TEAM player. Working in groups on projects and papers always was an issue for me before tour. Now I can be content to let someone else take the lead or let someone else voice his or her ideas. I know that this will come in handy every day in the office.

World Tour taught me that travel is UNIVERSAL. I have realized that everyone wants to do it, everyone does it and everyone loves it. It is truly an amazing and UNIVERSAL experience.

Though World Tour is over, it certainly lives on. I hope you have enjoyed reading these articles as much as I have enjoyed writing them. I wish you luck on whatever travels you may undertake and hope that every adventure will be one that changes you for better and leaves a lasting mark on your soul. To end, I leave you with my favorite quote concerning travel:

"The whole object of travel is not to set foot on foreign land; it is at last to set foot on one's own country as foreign land." – G.K. Chesterton



The following pages contain screenshots from:

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# The "Global Experience Project" – the Website



## A GLOBAL EXPERIENCE

LIFE LESSONS LEARNED ABROAD

A year ago, I undertook one of the most rewarding educational experiences of my life: a semester abroad.

With 40 other Ball State students, I traveled the world (26 countries to be exact) in 100 days. On this World Tour my fellow travelers and I experienced new places, new cultures, new customs and new foods among other many other things.

As the 40 of us traveled, lived and learned together it is needless to say that every one of us changed. This project, entitled "a global experience" is my attempt to look back, a year later, at what I took away from this trip and how it changed me as person as well as to share some advice for you future/present/past travelers out there.

**TO CONTINUE READING "A GLOBAL EXPERIENCE" SELECT A LINK TO THE RIGHT OR CLICK HERE.**

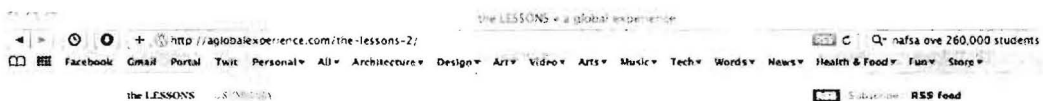


### the LESSONS

- TEAMWORK
- RESOURCEFULNESS
- UNIVERSAL
- TASTE
- REMEMBRANCE
- MONUMENTAL
- LOVE
- CURIOSITY
- HERITAGE
- ENDURANCE
- RESPECT
- INTEREST
- HUMOR
- FLEXIBILITY
- AWESOME
- BLISS
- ADVENTURE
- PATIENCE
- AWARENESS
- COURAGE

### WHAT I'VE LEARNED

In SUMMARY



## A GLOBAL EXPERIENCE

LIFE LESSONS LEARNED ABROAD

### TEAMWORK

Sometimes people like to travel alone, like to do whatever they please and make decisions as they go. Most travel, though, is usually done in groups and when traveling in groups, it always works better if you work together. By the end of World Tour we were a professional traveling group. We could load this... [Read more...]

Tags: focus, preparation, teamwork, travel, World Tour

Posted in: TEAMWORK

### RESOURCEFULNESS

Most of us take clean laundry for granted. If you're really lucky your mom still does it for you, or maybe your spouse. While touring, this is not the case. Laundry becomes another thing that you have to make time for and having clean clothes becomes a luxury. On World Tour we did laundry when... [Read more...]

Tags: laundry, resourceful, travel

Posted in: RESOURCEFULNESS

### UNIVERSAL

Everyone wants to travel. Some of us get to and some of us might not. This is the case all around the world. On World Tour we met lots of fellow travelers. We would strike up conversations about where we had been, where they had been and where we were going. All of these conversations... [Read more...]

### TASTE

If you like traveling or the idea of traveling, you probably like watching some of the culinary travel shows on the Food Network or Travel Channel. The hosts on those shows inspire jealousy. Who doesn't want to eat food for their life? Unless you eat some sort of new food deal you're probably not going to... [Read more...]

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### WHAT I'VE LEARNED

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## The "Global Experience Project" – the Website

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# A GLOBAL EXPERIENCE

LIFE LESSONS LEARNED ABROAD

## RESPECT

in Summary

Americans have lots of opinions about the rest of the world, even if we haven't been there. If you're an adventurous travel you will probably travel to places with cultures or customs that you may disagree with. Hopefully you come out of these situations positively.



AT THE GRAND MOSQUE IN ABU DHABI WEARING OUR ROBES AND HEADSCARVES

In Abu Dhabi we went to visit the Grand Mosque. When the bus pulled up our tour guide asked us to stay seated as he explained that all women were

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# A GLOBAL EXPERIENCE


LIFE LESSONS LEARNED ABROAD

## HUMOR

in Summary

A lot of us really don't like to be laughed at but we obviously can't help it when situations arise in which we are the butt of the joke.

In Granada we decided to go to a Flamenco show as a group. This is certainly one of the more "touristy" things to do in Spain but everyone wanted to do it anyway. In Granada, the Flamenco shows take place in the traditional gypsy cave dwellings. The audience sits in a single row of chairs along a hallway in which the Flamenco dancers strut their stuff. Our cave, which we shared with a Russian tour group, was more than a bit cramped. The show, however, was incredible: a live band with traditionally garbed dancers and an intermission complete with homemade Sangria.



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### WHAT I'VE LEARNED

in SUMMARY



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## LIFE LESSONS LEARNED ABROAD

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**INTEREST.**

### in SUMMARY

## LIFE LESSONS LEARNED ABROAD

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MY FRIEND ALEX ATTEMPTING TO FIT IN MY WORLD TOUR BACKPACK

When I left for World Tour I was excited but I also felt like I was having a bit of a nervous breakdown. Leaving things is slightly terrifying, especially for over 3 months. Stepping onto that plane in Chicago was quite a big step but I managed to do it knowing that the experience I was about to have would be the biggest adventure of my life.

Traveling taxes:

**COURAGE.**

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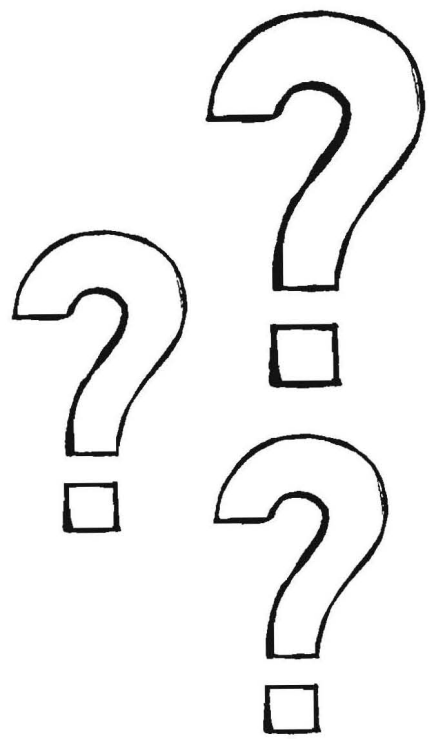
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**THINK YOU'RE  
CURIOUS**



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